

APPROVED Minutes
Gaming Study Commission
Meeting: Tuesday, September 1, 2009

Commissioners Present: Andy Lietz, Chair; Jim Craig, Tom Ferrini, Mark MacKenzie, Bob Odell, Joe Foster, David Babson, David Bailey, Bonnie Newman, Lew Feldstein, Micheline Dufort, Maggie Pritchard, Ned Densmore, Mary Heath.

Commissioners Absent/Excused: Karen Pollard

Staff Present: Gail Wolek

Commission Chair, Andy Lietz, called the meeting to order at 1:05 p.m.

Chairman Lietz introduced himself, and advised that the commission agenda would focus on the proposed work plan, proposed staffing plan, and approval of proposed meeting plan.

Following his opening remarks, Chairman Lietz asked the commissioners to introduce themselves and provide a brief summary of the experience they are bringing to the commission's work.

Chairman Lietz informed the commission members that he has met with the Governor, Senate President, and House Speaker to review the commission's proposed work plan. All emphasized that the commission should view its work as independent of any legislation or other gaming-related activities that may be underway or proposed concurrently with the commission's meetings and public sessions. Chairman Lietz then reviewed the proposed scope of work. Commission members agreed that the work plan is a good starting point with additional comments including: what is status of gaming in NH currently; request that illegal gaming information also be researched; what are the existing infrastructures that manage gaming in NH; potential for merging gaming agencies; existing governance of gaming agencies and activities; number of employees, budgets, fees, licensing, etc. that could potentially be affected; data from law enforcement on gaming-related arrests, issues, etc.; public safety—types of crime associated with gaming; recommendations for choosing presenters to the commission; limit study to those models which could potentially "gain traction" in NH; economic multipliers i.e. BPT, real estate and other taxes, leaseholds, etc.; how to quantify "quality of life" and how other states have addressed this topic; identifying measures and metrics for assessing outcomes over time; how does gaming fit into state's economic development plan in its broader (economic engine) context.

Governor Lynch joined the commission briefly and offered the following directives: The issue of gaming in NH is important to the state. The Governor very much appreciates each commissioner's commitment of time and talent to the work of the commission. Governor Lynch specifically thanked Andy Lietz for taking on the task as chair of the commission and Gail Wolek for serving as its executive director. Governor Lynch also recognized and thanked the Center for Public Policy for assisting the commission with research and data analysis, as well as the NH Charitable Foundation for agreeing to serve as the commission's fiscal agent. The Governor emphasized that everyone was there because they love and care about New Hampshire. He appreciates the commitment to bring an unbiased effort to the commission's work and to separate its efforts from anything happening elsewhere around the state or in the legislature. The commission's report will be received as authoritative—produced from thoughtful, comprehensive data research and analysis. Governor Lynch concluded his remarks saying that the commission must be mindful of the long-term impacts and unintended consequences of gaming in NH because its report will affect not only current policy-making but the future of the state's citizens for generations to come.

Following the Governor's departure, Chairman Lietz presented the proposed staffing plan to the commission. Chairman Lietz said he has met with Center for Public Policy and its Board approved the Center to conduct research

and data analysis for the commission. Dennis Delay and Ryan Tappin were in attendance at the meeting representing the Center and answered questions related to construction of models to include social, economic and other impacts of gaming in NH. Mr. Delay said that if hired, the Center would provide a final scoping document for the commission's review and approval at its next meeting.

Chairman Lietz also introduced Annette Nielsen representing the NH Economic & Labor Market Research Bureau. Ms. Nielsen has provided various recommendations for reports the commissioners can review and will be available to the commission for additional research needs.

Chairman Lietz next introduced Andy Smith of the UNH Survey Center. Mr. Smith said the Center could include questions in its next quarterly survey due out in late September/early October to get a sense of where the public is currently on the topic of gaming in NH. He will be happy to work with the commission to find out what the commission wants to know and how the survey process can be useful in that discovery. Once NH models have been identified, Mr. Smith said the survey center could then find out more information about what the public is willing to support (test the hypotheses). Mr. Smith reported there is already developed information on various revenue models in the state that the commission may want to review.

For the proposed public sessions set forth in the work plan, Chairman Lietz introduced Bruce Mallory to the commission. Dr. Mallory recently retired as UNH provost but continues to work with the Carsey Institute which conducts public policy research on civic engagement and sustainable community development. Commissioner Ferrini spoke about the deliberative democracy process that Portsmouth has put into use and agreed that a collaborative discussion about gaming in NH would likely be a productive method for gaining public input. Dr. Mallory described the process as small groups of citizens (10-15 usually) who meet in various locations around the state with sustained dialogues managed by trained facilitators to produce a deliberative consensus that is useful to public policy leadership discussions.

Chairman Lietz informed the commission that the final part of the staffing plan will include a professional writer to assist the commission in the composition, lay-out, production, and distribution of the interim and final reports. This person or agency hasn't been identified yet but a search is underway so that whoever takes on this task can be involved in the commission's work as soon as possible.

Chairman Lietz then asked for a motion from the commission to support the proposed work and staffing plans. Commissioner MacKenzie made a motion to approve the proposed work and staffing plans, seconded by Commissioner Babson. A brief discussion ensued on financial resources available to the commission to get this work underway. Chairman Lietz advised that an initial grant has been provided by the NH Charitable Foundation to help the commission get started but that significant fundraising would be needed to complete the tasks as outlined. Chairman Lietz asked for any recommendations the commission members may have on who they think may be willing to support the work of the commission. Chairman Lietz then called for a vote on the motion which was approved unanimously.

In preparation for adjournment, Chairman Lietz asked the commission members to let him know of any other topics they may want to discuss at the next meeting. Commissioner MacKenzie requested guidance on handling media inquiries. Chairman Lietz said the commissioners are respected leaders of this state and their opinions are highly valued, therefore they should feel free to respond to appropriate media questions. Chairman Lietz did ask, however, that questions relative to policy or the status of the commission's work be deferred to himself, or in his absence, to Gail Wolek as executive director.

At 3:30 p.m. a motion was made, seconded, and approved to adjourn the meeting.

NEXT MEETING: TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2009, 1:00 P.M., NHHEAF

Respectfully submitted: Gail Wolek, Executive Director